

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (currently amended) A tire/wheel assembly in which a run-flat support member is inserted into a cavity of a pneumatic tire, the run-flat support member including a circular shell in which an outer circumferential side thereof is used as a support surface and an inner circumferential side thereof ~~is opened to have~~ having two leg portions, and elastic rings supporting ends of the two leg portions on a rim,

wherein protruding portions are provided, respectively projecting sideways on both sides of the circular shell, and

the protruding portions come into contact with an inner surface of a bead of the pneumatic tire during run-flat traveling.

2. (currently amended) The tire/wheel assembly according to claim 1, wherein the protruding portions are spaced by 1 mm or more from an inner surface of a bead of the pneumatic tire during normal traveling and come into contact with the inner surface of the bead during run-flat traveling.

3. (original) The tire/wheel assembly according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the protruding portion has a contact portion with a length of 5 to 20 mm in a radial direction, the contact portion being in contact with the inner surface of the bead of the pneumatic tire during the run-flat traveling.

4. (original) The tire/wheel assembly according to claim 3, wherein an estimated angle  $\alpha$  is within a range from 20 to 50 degrees, the estimated angle  $\alpha$  being measured from a straight line, which passes through a peak of a rim flange parallel to a rotation axis of the tire, through the length in a radial direction of the contract portion that is in contact with the inner surface of the bead of the pneumatic tire during the run-flat tire, using the peak of the rim flange as a vertex.

5. (original) The tire/wheel assembly according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the protruding portion is formed by bending a sidewall of the circular shell.

6. (original) The tire/wheel assembly according to any one of claims 1 and 2, wherein the protruding portion is formed by a member independent from the circular shell.

7. (currently amended) A run-flat support member, comprising:

a circular shell in which an outer circumferential side thereof is used as a support surface and an inner circumferential side thereof ~~is opened to have~~ having two leg portions; and

an elastic ring which supports ends of two leg portions on a rim,

wherein protruding portions are provided, respectively projecting sideways on both sides of the circular shell, and

the protruding portions come into contact with an inner surface of a bead of a pneumatic tire during run-flat traveling.

8. (original) The run-flat support member according to claim 7, wherein the protruding portion is formed by bending a sidewall of the circular shell.

9. (original) The run-flat support member according to claim 7, wherein the protruding portion is formed by a member independent from the circular shell.

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

As requested by the Examiner in the Office Action, the attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figs. 1 and 2 showing the protruding portion in contact with the inner surface of the tire bead of the pneumatic tire during run-flat traveling, and changes to Fig. 2 using primes for references characters 3, 4, 5, 6, and 7.